Serial No.: 10/678,035
Group Art Unit 3752
Examiner Steven J. Ganey

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-36 were previously canceled and new claims 37-60 were added by preliminary amendment. Thus, claims 37-60 are presently pending in the subject application.

REMARKS

Double-Patenting Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 37, 43, 44, 49, 50, 55, and 56 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 6, 14, 15, 24, 25, 30, 32 and 37 of U.S. Patent No. 6,544,227.

Claims 38-42, 45-48, 51-54 and 57-60 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

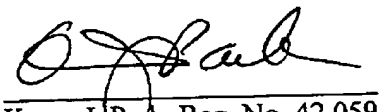
The accompanying terminal disclaimer should overcome this rejection, as stated by the Examiner. Thus, Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c).

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims 37-60 are now in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700, ext. 7 in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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